

I have had a letter from General Smith since the sitting of the Assembly, respecting the grape vines and also informing me that his extraordinary threshing machine has fell through. I have spoke to M^r. Colston at his request to go to build him one, he seems very desirous to move from here, his whole complaint is bad pay, but he never will be satisfied long any where I never have had any conversation with him since I wrote you last until Saturday last when I spoke to him at the request of G. Smith.

Write me the News of the Assembly, I wish you to put me down a Subscriber to the Starr Newspaper,¹⁶ and pay one years advance[.] I expect you this way on your return from the Assembly and I will go with you to the Lake, I never have had a [letter?] from M^r. Mollan yet, I expect a quantity of goods hourly perhaps I may then hear from him, there is 3 vessels ashore on the Banks, one belongs here loaded with Molasses[,] one from Savannah with Sugar, one from Maderia with wine[.] Robert Davison has gone this morning. Speculating the sale is on monday

if your spare time is not taken up with attending Balls, and taking recompation [sic] for your former Grivinces [sic], with
—— You will write me by the next post

I am D^r. friend respectfully Your's

Tho^s. Trotter

P.S. Should you see M^r. [Henry] Seawell our former attorney general¹⁷ please to inform him I shall attend to his letter, but he cannot get his fan before March there is so many bespoke

[Addressed:]

M^r. Ebenezer Pettigrew

Raleigh

¹⁶ The *Raleigh Star* was a politically neutral newspaper. George Washington Paschal, *A History of Printing in North Carolina* (Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton Company, 1946), 29, hereinafter cited as Paschal, *History of Printing*.

¹⁷ Henry Seawell of Wake County was attorney general of the state from 1803 to 1808. Connor, *Manual*, 1913, 444. For a biographical sketch of him, see Ashe, *Biographical History*, II, 394-397.